

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THEME: Education--Specialized

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Shawnee Mission

AND/OR COMMON

Shawnee Methodist Mission

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 3403 W. 53rd Street

CITY, TOWN

Shawnee Mission

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

003

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

091

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☒ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Kansas State Historical Society, Nyle H. Miller, Executive Director

STREET &amp; NUMBER

120 West Tenth Street

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66612

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Johnson County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Olathe

STATE

Kansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

XX FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress/Annex, Prints and Photographs Division

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(restored)	

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the height of its activity, Shawnee Mission was an establishment of 2,000 acres with 16 buildings, including the three large brick structures which still stand, and an enrollment of nearly 200 Indian boys and girls.

The West Building was the first permanent structure at the mission. Thomas Johnson, superintendent of the mission, moved his family to the new building in 1839, and school began the same month. Another building, twenty feet square, was erected in the rear and in 1840 the two were joined by seventy-foot walls to make a dining hall seating 200 persons. In later years fifty feet at the end of the West Building were removed. An "historic" porch was reconstructed in 1968, but subsequent research indicates no such porch existed west of the Mississippi in the 1840's.

The East Building, 100x30 feet and two stories high, was built in 1841. It contained fourteen school and lodging rooms for teachers and children. The chapel occupied part of the first floor, and the attic was the boys' dormitory.

The North Building was erected in 1845 to accommodate increased enrollment. It was 100x20 feet, two stories high, with a piazza across the entire length except at the ends.

The building was divided into connecting rooms which were used as the girls' school and dormitory. At one time Johnson and his family lived here as well.

The school was abandoned in 1864 and for the next sixty years the buildings served variously as Union Army barracks, a dance hall, dairy bottling plant, apartments and a boarding house. In 1927 the state bought the three remaining buildings and began restoration work and landscaping on the 12-acre grounds. The West Building has become the caretaker's residence, and many interior alterations have been made. The East and North Buildings are museums. Some rooms have been authentically restored and refurnished. Others are incongruous in style of refurnishing. These rooms were done in the 1930's and '40's by private historical societies. The grounds have been attractively landscaped, with no attempt at historic reconstruction. A brick garage was built behind the North Building about 1935.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES 1839-1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shawnee Mission and Indian Manual Labor School was among the earliest of such institutions in the Louisiana Purchase area. The mission was established in 1830 by the Rev. Thomas Johnson. Indian children of many nearby tribes were taught English, manual arts, and agriculture here from 1839 through 1862. At the height of its activity nearly 200 Indian students were enrolled.

The first territorial governor of Kansas had his executive offices at the Mission in 1854, and the first territorial legislature met here in 1855. The pro-slavery assembly unseated all but two of the Free Staters attending and legalized slavery in Kansas by the "Bogus Laws," as the Free Staters who refused to recognize the actions called them. On August 8, 1855, the legislature moved to Lecompton, followed shortly by the executive offices.

The mission declined rapidly after this time. The Indians sold their lands and moved away. Border troubles became serious. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Thomas Johnson, although himself a slaveholder, pledged his allegiance to the Union cause. The Johnsons closed the mission in 1862. In 1864 they moved to Missouri, where Johnson was killed by a band of Quantrill's guerillas on the night of January 2, 1865.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caldwell, Martha B., ed., Annals of Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Labor School, 1939.

Kansas State Historical Society, "Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School," informational pamphlet.

Work Projects Administration, Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State, 1939.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 15	359530	4321600
C 15	359190	4321420

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
B 15	359430	4321300
D 15	359320	4321790

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmark Boundary Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

August 28, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/31/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: William Lebovich  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

June 15, 1978

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The Shawnee Mission State Park comprises 12 acres out of the original 2,000. It includes the three historic buildings still standing and the sites of outbuildings no longer in existence. The grounds are attractively landscaped and, thus, provide an unobtrusive, although not entirely historic background for the buildings. The boundary, therefore, encloses the 12-acre Shawnee Methodist Mission State Park, as described by the red line on the accompanying map B, labelled "Shawnee Mission" and dated June 17, 1975: From a point at the intersection of Mission Road and 53rd Street, proceed north along a line extending the east curb of Mission Road about 200 meters to the property line of Bishop Meige High School. Proceed east along the property line about 140 meters and then south about 320 meters. Proceed west about 160 meters to the east curb of Mission Road and then north about 120 meters along the curb to the point of beginning.

B.



BISHOP MEIGS  
HIGH SCHOOL

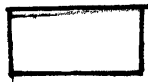
~140 meters

N



~320 meters

NORTH  
BUILDING



~320 meters

53RD STREET

PARKING

WEST  
BUILDING



EAST  
BUILDING

WELL

GARAGE



~160 meters

MISSION ROAD

SHAWNEE MISSION  
SHAWNEE MISSION, KAN.  
JUNE 18, 1975